



Mental Health Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 20

PART II

COMPULSORY ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AND GUARDIANSHIP

Duration of detention or guardianship and discharge

24 Visiting and examination of patients

- (1) For the purpose of advising as to the exercise by the nearest relative of a patient who is liable to be detained or subject to guardianship under this Part of this Act of any power to order his discharge, any registered medical practitioner authorised by or on behalf of the nearest relative of the patient may, at any reasonable time, visit the patient and examine him in private.
- (2) Any registered medical practitioner authorised for the purposes of subsection (1) above to visit and examine a patient may require the production of and inspect any records relating to the detention or treatment of the patient in any hospital.
- (3) Where application is made by the Secretary of State or a Regional Health Authority, District Health Authority or special health authority to exercise, in respect of a patient liable to be detained in a mental nursing home, any power to make an order for his discharge, the following persons, that is to say—
 - (a) any registered medical practitioner authorised by the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, that authority; and
 - (b) any other person (whether a registered medical practitioner or not) authorised under the Nursing Homes Act 1975 to inspect the home,may at any reasonable time visit the patient and interview him in private.
- (4) Any person authorised for the purposes of subsection (3) above to visit a patient may require the production of and inspect any documents constituting or alleged to constitute the authority for the detention of the patient under this Part of this Act; and any person so authorised, who is a registered medical practitioner, may examine the

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

patient in private, and may require the production of and inspect any other records relating to the treatment of the patient in the home.